

Orthodox Church and the Holy Synod of Bishops in Skopje, Macedonia. Shortly thereafter, in 1965, the first Divine Liturgy was delivered to St. George's church by Archbishop Dositej Stojković in Macedonian. The visit by Archbishop Dositej was a success, resulting in the consecration of a permanent church on July 1, 1968.

St. George's rapidly expanded in the 1970's and by the end of the decade there was a need for a new church to accommodate more members. A new church hall was constructed and occupied by St. George's in 1981. On September 15, 1985, the new church was consecrated by the Metropolitan Kiril. After further successes and a growing parish, St. George's underwent its final renovation to date in the 1990's. This renovation included an expansion of the church hall and the installment of a beautiful stain glass window collection. These efforts were led by Father Branko Postolovski, who continues to lead St. George's today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House to join me in honoring the history and contributions of St. George's Macedonian Orthodox Church. It is my hope that St. George's continues to thrive and serve the Syracuse area for many more years to come.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
BENJAMIN F. ADAMS III

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Benjamin F. Adams III. He is an exemplary leader who has served our nation for forty years in military service.

General Adams received his commission through the ROTC program at the University of Mississippi in 1978. He completed flight school in 1980 and spent 15 years on active duty with the United States Army. He has commanded at the company, battalion, and brigade levels. Active duty assignments included the United States Army Aviation Center, Fort Rucker, Alabama; the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Army Reserve Personnel Center, Saint Louis, Missouri; and the Combined Forces Land Component Command, Kuwait and Baghdad, Iraq. He served as a military technician in the Kentucky National Guard as the Commonwealth of Kentucky's State Army Aviation Officer; J1 and Army Chief of Staff from September 1999 to November 2012.

General Adams' most recent service has been as Commander, Land Component Command, Kentucky Army National Guard. In this position, he served as an assistant and advisor to the Adjutant General of Kentucky. He was responsible for manning, training, and equipping a force of over 8,500 Army and Air Guardsmen.

Following a career of forty years of service, General Adams is retiring from Army service. He will continue to serve as the Kentucky Department of Veteran's Affairs Commissioner. His service there is valuable to all of Kentucky's many veterans.

It is my honor today to recognize this extraordinary patriot, Brigadier General Benjamin

F. Adams, as he retires from Army service. His service and his leadership are greatly appreciated.

TACKLING FENTANYL: THE CHINA
CONNECTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we held a hearing at the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, which I chair.

Chinese-made fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is killing Americans—more than 29,000 in 2017 alone. We must hold the Chinese government accountable.

Kirsten D. Madison, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs testified that China is “a primary source of illicit synthetic drugs coming to the United States.”

Paul E. Knierim, Deputy Chief of Operations at the Office of Global Enforcement for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), stated in his testimony that “China is one of the world's top producers of the precursor chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine and fentanyl, as well as the chemicals used to process heroin and cocaine.”

Ocean County, New Jersey Prosecutor Joseph Coronato, has called the China-made fentanyl sent into the United States a “synthetic storm” that is “devastating.”

He noted thankfully that local law enforcement is doing something about it—like his program that allows drug abusers to voluntarily turn themselves in at a police station—more than 800 since 2017—without being prosecuted. A program that has almost certainly reduced deaths.

Still, Prosecutor Coronato noted that based on his medical examiner toxicology analysis, in 2014, 10 percent of overdose deaths had fentanyl in their systems. Shockingly, in 2018, fentanyl-related deaths have jumped to 80 percent or more.

He also told the committee that “synthetics will become the predominate type of illegal drugs abused within the next 5 years” and that “in many instances” it is being sold “right over the internet.”

I asked both the State Department and DEA what the U.S. is doing to hold China accountable for fentanyl in the U.S. Are we using existing tools to hold bad actors in China accountable? We have tools, such as the Global Magnitsky Act, which targets corrupt officials and human rights abusers.

Recently the House passed comprehensive legislation to address the opioid crisis including the Synthetics and Overdose Prevention Act. The bill requires the U.S. Postal Service (as private carriers like UPS and Fed-Ex are currently required to do) to obtain advance electronic data (AED)—detailed info on the shipper and addressee and other data-empowering Customs and Border Protection to target fentanyl and other illegal drug shipments.

Bryce Pardo of the RAND Corporation testified that the potency of fentanyl has sharply increased the number of opioid overdoses

... and that the drug overdose crisis now surpasses major public health epidemics of prior generations, including the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Every single Congressional district in America has felt the scourge of the opioid epidemic. Don Holman, who was in the audience yesterday, lost his son, Garrett, to an overdose of synthetic fentanyl. Don's written testimony submitted to the committee, reports that the package came straight from China. His son ordered it online, not knowing of the poisonous effects fentanyl has.

Last week, I spoke at the Mercer County, International Overdose Awareness Day sponsored by Prosecutor Angelo Onofri and Robbinsville Mayor David Fried. Personal testimonies offered by survivors and recovering abusers were deeply moving.

Trenton Police Chief Pedro Medina spoke of the loss of his son, Petey, and assured the audience that there is a “God who can help all of you.”

Advocate Mark Manning, who lost his son Christopher, spoke of his ongoing pain but urged all to work together to help the vulnerable.

And Adrienne Petta recounted the horrors of her addiction and the impact on her family—she is now a recovery specialist.

For the record, Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher Gramiccioni's Opioids Diversion Program, steers certain low-level non-violent offenders to treatment rather than traditional criminal prosecution, and Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo Onofri's Community Addiction Recovery Effort (CARE) program which emphasizes treatment-first interventions for opioid addicts.

We must look at this as a disease. Go after those who are marketing and selling fentanyl and offer programs and assistance to those who need help.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF DAVID AND
CAROL WITHERINGTON

HON. ERIC A. “RICK” CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2018

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of David and Carol Witherington. When they met, Chicagoan Carol Leonard was 17. Tennessean David Witherington was on leave, and visiting Carol's hometown of Melrose Park, Illinois. Following David's honorable discharge, they eloped and married on September 7, 1968, in Clinton, Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Witherington worked in the plastics industry, and their careers took them across the United States, along the way adopting two sons. In 1985 the family sold their house, moved to Colorado, and started their own successful plastics company—the BroCom Corporation. Today, the Witheringtons live in beautiful Mountain Home, Arkansas, and are celebrating 50 years of marriage.